

REMARKS

In response to the above-noted Office Action, Applicant has amended Claim 21 responsive to the claim objection set forth on page 2, and cancelled Claim 31. Responsive to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended Claim 21 and Claim 28. Claim 34 has been cancelled. Claim 36 has been amended to depend from Claim 35. Claim 32 has been amended to depend from Claim 21, instead of from cancelled Claim 31. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the various objections and rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is requested in view of such amendments.

In response to the rejection of Claims 21-24, 26, 28 and 31-35 under 31 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Manton, Claim 21 has been amended to positively recite that the rib fits into a circumferential groove, and the pipe is connected to a counter-flange in response to the Examiner's contention that an element which is "adapted to" perform a function, or "is for" connecting is given little patentable weight.

Claim 21 has been further amended to specify that the mounting ring is made of a flexible material and has a split.

In this connection, in the Action, the Examiner contends that element 13 corresponds to the mounting ring, noting that the mounting ring of Manton can be elastically expanded by the application of heat. Additionally, the limitation of Claim 22 wherein the ring is split has been added to Claim 21. In this connection, it is noted that in the Action, the Examiner contends that Claim 22 is met by Figure 5, which shows a ring with a split. However, the ring which appears in Figure 5, is actually sleeve 25, and not inner part 13, which the Examiner construes as the mounting ring, which does not have a split.

As such, in view of such amendments, Applicant submits that Claim 21 now recites a pipe coupling which includes a resilient mounting ring, and a mounting flange which do not correspond structurally to corresponding elements in Manton relied upon by the Examiner.

Since the remaining claims depend from Claim 21, and add further limitations thereto, Applicant submits that the claims pending for examination, namely Claims 21, 23-30, 32, 33 and 35-40 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Per 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and in connection with the Office Action mailed on June 11, 2008, Applicant respectfully petitions Commissioner for a one (1) month extension of time, extending the period for response to October 11, 2008. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment in the amount of \$110.00 to cover the petition filing fee for a 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1) large entity.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS on October 13, 2008.


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